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ROBINSON, EDWIN VAN DYKE. *Early Economic Conditions and the Development of Agriculture in Minnesota*. Pp. v, 306. Price, \$1.50. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1915.

This big folio volume of 300 pages is a cross between a census report and the work of a German scholar. It is a storehouse of knowledge for the student of economic history, economic geography and agriculture. Its character is well indicated by its evolution. It started out to be a statistical atlas but the increasing realization that these maps, charts and graphs needed to be explained caused the author to dig and delve into contemporary publications, correspond with many of the men who had pushed along the developments, and thus he added many thousand words of text. Even the chinch bug has a map, as have practically all of the factors of agricultural development at each census period. Climatic data are also carefully mapped. The book is one that must be consulted by almost every person venturing to speak of Minnesota in any careful way. It is a matter of great regret that this is the last work of Professor Robinson who died a few months after the book appeared.

J. R. S.

MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY

NYSTROM, PAUL H. *Textiles*. Pp. xviii, 335. Price, \$1.50. New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1916.

This book presents in concise form the essential facts regarding the ordinary textiles of commerce, with especial attention to the leading members of this group; namely, linen, wool, cotton and silk. The chapters deal with the sources of the raw material, the methods of marketing and manufacture, the tests to determine quality, and the economic aspects of textiles.

The author states in his preface that he intended to interest retail and wholesale salespeople, housewives, educational institutions and the general public. It is an exceedingly difficult task to write a book for an audience so diverse as this and have the work profitable to all its readers upon all its pages, and Dr. Nystrom has not mastered the complications of his undertaking; hence no one who picks up the book will be completely satisfied with it.

Furthermore, the author touches upon so many topics that it is inevitable that his work will contain not a few inaccuracies; such as, confusing *wool* with *hair*, and declaring that *cotton* comes from the *seed* of the cotton plant, or drawing the inference that because labor is minutely subdivided in the manufacture of shoes and men's clothing that it is equally specialized in all industries. From the closeness with which Dr. Nystrom follows standard authorities upon the chief textiles, we are at liberty to suppose that he himself is none too familiar with his subject; and moreover he limits himself to statements of facts with almost no explanation of the factors of causation behind those facts, a flaw most noticeable in the chapters on the Geography of the Cotton Trade and the Geography of Wool Production.

While writing, the author must have had most prominently before his mind the retail salesgirl portion of his audience for the literary style of the book nowhere advances beyond the intelligence of such a person.